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YoungStar Chosen as ZERO TO THREE's Top 2010 Policy Initiative

Madison – YoungStar has been chosen as one of the nation's top policy initiatives by national child advocacy organization, ZERO TO THREE. YoungStar, launched by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in June, is Wisconsin's child care quality rating and improvement system.

"YoungStar is changing the landscape of child care in Wisconsin and ensuring that our children are prepared for school and their futures," stated DCF Secretary Reggie Bicha. "We are excited that a national organization of the caliber of ZERO TO THREE recognizes the monumental impact that YoungStar will have on improving the lives of children."

YoungStar continues DCF's efforts to ensure that all families have access to high quality, affordable early care and education. YoungStar will link child care quality to payments from the Wisconsin Shares program, make it easier for parents to choose the best care for their children, and help child care providers improve. YoungStar is funded through the \$120 million savings realized from DCF's innovative fraud fighting strategies.

ZERO TO THREE is a national, nonprofit organization that informs, trains, and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers. For more than 30 years, ZERO TO THREE has been known for their leadership in the infant-family field.

For more information about DCF, visit www.dcf.wi.gov. To learn more about ZERO TO THREE, visit www.zerotothree.org.